

History of Edray Community
(by S. B. Moore)

Edray Community is bounded on the west by Stony Creek range of mountains; on the north by Elk Mountain, to the top of Slippery Hill on the Clover Creek road, then to the Bridger place on the Greenbrier river where Paul Sharp now lives; on the South by the top of river ridges, including the Fairview and Brush Settlements, to the top of Drinnon Ridge where the State road crosses and to Elmer Sharp's at the foot of Stony Creek Mt.

This community is about five miles wide where the State Road crosses, and ten miles long from east to west.

The Drinnons were the first settlers in Edray Community. Thomas Drinnon settled near the Edray Grave yard. There is some difference of opinion as to the exact spot where the Drinnon Cabin stood, but I feel sure it was on the bank just close to the grave yard. A spring under the bank has always, since my earliest recollection, been called the "Drinnon Spring." Other proof is an old, apple orchard, trees of large size, mostly winter apples, near the spot where the Cabin stood. My father Isaac Moore went to this orchard in the fall with the wagon for winter apples when I was a small boy, though large enough to pick apples from the ground. My uncle, Robert Moore, and his boys always called this field the "old orchard field," and it goes by that name yet. A part of this field belongs to A. R. Gay and the other part belongs to William M. Sharp's heirs, all of which once belonged to Thomas Drinnon, first settler in this community. He owned a large boundary of land several thousand acres that extended from Indian Draft to Stony Creek. Drinnon's Ridge took its name from the old settler, an everlasting monument.

Drinnon's home was broken up by the Indians. His wife was captured and taken away and murdered somewhere in Elk Mountain. Charles Drinnon a brother of Thomas Drinnon, settled near Onote. He cleared a field which bears the name "Charly Field" which is now owned by Anderson Barlow.

The Drinnons all left this country many years ago. I remember seeing James

Drinnon a member of this distinguished family. I think the Drinnons went to the northwest part of this state.

Robert Moore, my grandfather, who was captured by the Indians (see W. T, Price's History of Eocahontas for a full account of this capture). Robert Moore, Sr. once lived at the Bridger place, and reared his family there. My father, Isaac Moore, was born and raised there. One brother, Andrew, fell from a tree and was killed while other members of the family were stirring off a kettle of sugar. About 1820, Robert Moore, Sr. Moved to Edray and settled on the Drinnon holdings. He and his boys opened up a fine farm and erected a fine two story building in the Community. I believe the lumber that went into the house was sawed with the whipsaw as at that time there was no water power saw mills. The broad ax was extensively used in getting out all heavy timber for buildings. Robert Moore and his wife lived and died in the brick mansion, and were buried in the Edray Grave yard. He was born in 1768, died 1858, age 90 years. His wife was born 1771, died 1855, age 84 years. These graves were the first in the Edroy Graveyard; Robert Moore's real estate was divided with his boys and one daughter. The names of the sons were Isaac, James, William and Robert Jr. Robert received the old homestead, lived there many years and sold to J. W. Sharp about 1867 for seven thousand dollars. That included the upper part of the place, now owned by Isaac Sharp's heirs. I want to say just here, there was an old house stood about half way between the old brick house and the gate at the road. I think the old settler built and occupied this house while the brick house was being erected. When I was a small boy, elections were held in the old house. There was no ticket or ballot used. The Commissioner or "Conductor of Election asked the voter: "Who do you vote for?"

My father Isaac Moore, settled in the woods where I now live. Father's house was a hewed log house, about 16x20 ft; shingle roof, chinked and daubed walls; one door and one window in the first story, and some in second story. The porch was on the side and stairs went up from the porch.

The soil of Edroy Community is productive. The upland is largely limestone, naturally sod, with the blue grass when sod is taken off. The flat land below the

mountains is sand stone; not as rich as the limestone and not so good for grazing, but better for farming when improved; produces well and less liable to wash from heavy rains.

As to the timber, this community has been covered with all kinds of hard wood, bass wood; some spruce high on the mountains and hemlock along the streams. Some of the most valuable timber is black walnut, ash, cherry, red oak and white oak, a great deal of which has been cut and shipped. Other hardwoods are Chestnut oak, some black oak, pink oak and sugar. There is some yellow pine on the flats.

Edroy Community can boast of the best water in the state. Both limestone and free stone. There are many bold springs around the foot of the mountains. Always flowing, never dry, namely. At Elmer Sharp's, E.K. Sharp's and also a sulphur spring at E. K. Sharp's, a bold spring at the Cochran place, at A. C. Barlow's head of Big Spring, now owned by the Bank of Marlinton and sufficient to run a grist mill with twenty foot overshot water wheel. Other bold springs at Mrs. M. K. Sharp's G. W. Mann's and Drinnon Spring at Mrs. J.W. Price's at Edray. John D. Gay owns head of Indian Draft. There are many drilled wells in the flats all good water.

Some of the first schools were taught on the old farm homes. One among the first, if not the first, was in an old house near Mrs. George Baxter's home. The house was a round log structure, clapboard roof, held in place with press poles. The fireplace took up most of one end of the house. It was made of rough stone. Chimney made of slate and mud. Now, for light, paper was pasted over cracks and greased to let in the light. Other cracks in the building were chinked and daubed. Seats were made of split logs or poles, holes bored and pins put in for legs. The term of school was about three months. The salary was one dollar per scholar a month. Writing was done with quill pens. The teacher boarded with the scholars. My father Isaac Moore, taught at this school when a young man. The first schools were called "Open Schools." Everyone spelled and read aloud.

The first Church in Edroy Community was built on Stony Creek and called Hanlin Chapel. It is a hewed log building. Cracks Chinked and daubed, shooed shingle roof, side galleries, seats, --long benches with slot backs, door in one end

of building, elevated pulpit in other end, two small 12 light windows on sides. Some years ago the side galleries were taken out and the building ceiled. Benches were taken out and chairs put in. This church is still in use and was built in 1835; as the records show it was deeded July 4, 1835.

Edray Church was built in 1863 E. D. King was the contractor and builder. Contract price above foundation \$700.00. For this work Lakin and Peters furnished about twenty thousand feet of lumber from their mill at Clover Lick, delivered at the Gay Siding; which is now the Fair Grounds, for ten dollars per thousand white pine lumber. Everything summed up, all told, the Edray church cost \$2032.25 .

Edray Post Office was the first post office in Edray Community.

When looking for a name, Mrs. Eliza Moore, mother of the late George P. Moore being a Bible reader, suggested a Bible name and said "Call the post office Edrei". Leaving off the ei and adding ry making Edray the name of the first post office. This office was established about 1850. As soon as Geo. P. Moore was of age, he became post master and continued to be until his death in 1922. He was the oldest post master in the U. S. A.

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